

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 SS-15 STR-04

ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00

OMB-01 /099 W

-----031681 081838Z /45

R 081217Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2537

USDOC WASHDC

INFO AMCONSUL OPORTO

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, PO

SUBJ: GSP: REVIEW OF PORTUGUESE REVERSE PREFERENCES TO EEC

REF: A) LISBON 76 3903 B) LISBON A-226

1. ACCORDING TO GOP DIPLOMATIC NOTE (SEE REFTTEL) WHICH REDUCED DUTIES ON SOME US PRODUCTS IN ORDER TO MAKE PORTUGAL ELIGIBLE FOR GSP (THROUGH REMOVAL OF REVERSE PREFERENCES), THE GOP STATED ITS READINESS TO DISCUSS FUTURE CASES WHERE PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT GRANTED TO EEC COUNTRIES HAS OR IS LIKELY TO HAVE A SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON US EXPORTS. GENERAL ELECTRIC PORTUGUESA HAS SUBMITTED A LIST OF PRODUCTS WHERE PORTUGUESE DUTIES ON US PRODUCTS ARE SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER THAN ON THOSE FOR EEC GOODS AND WHERE THEY CONSIDER THERE IS A SIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL FOR US EXPORT GROWTH. TOTAL PORTUGUESE IMPORTS OF THE PRODUCTS IN 1976 WAS \$40,662,000 OF WHICH THE US SUPPLIED ONLY \$1,229,000 OR 3 PERCENT.

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2. BELOW ARE THE PRODUCTS LISTED BY PORTUGUESE CUSTOM NUMBERS:

PRODUCT	CUSTOMS NUMBER
1. SURGICAL WASHING MACHINES	84.19.02
2. X-RAY EQUIPMENT	90.20
3. OPERATING TABLES	94.02

4. GERMICIDAL LAMPS	85.20.03
5. INSULATING VARNISH	32.09.04
6. INSULATING SOLVENT	38.18
7. INSULATING MATERIALS	39.02.09
8. INSULATING MATERIALS	68.15.01
9. INSULATING MATERIALS	70.20.05
10. COPPER WIRE	85.23.08
11. CARBON BRUSHES	84.24.02
12. AERIALS (ANTENNAE)	73.21.07
13. ELECTRIC TOWERS	76.08
14. REFRIGERATOR COMPRESSORS	84.11.02
15. HERMETIC LIGHTS	85.09
16. AERIALS FOR COMMUNICATIONS	85.15.05
17. ELECTRONIC SIRENS	85.17.01
18. SPECIAL LAMPS	85.20.01
19. SPECIAL LAMPS	85.20.02
20. LIGHT FIXTURES	90.13.01
21. MEASURING INSTRUMENTS	90.28.02

EXACT CUSTOMS DUTIES FOR PRODUCTS ORIGINATING IN THE US, EFTA AND EEC, AND 1976 IMPORT STATISTICS FOR EACH PRODUCT BY COUNTRY INCLUDED IN SEPARATE AIRGRAM.

3. DUTY DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN SOME PRODUCTS ORIGINATING IN US AND THOSE FROM EFTA AND EEC AGGRAVATED BY DOUBLING OF DUTIES ON LONG SERIES OF PRODUCTS ON OCTOBER 1976. ARTICLES LISTED IN PARAGRAPH 2 WHICH WERE COVERED BY OCTOBER DECREE LAW ARE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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90.20, 94.02, 85.20.03, 70.20.05, 85.23.08, 84.24.02. 73.21.07.

84.11.02, 85.09, 85.15.05, 85.17.01, 85.20.01 AND 85.20.02.

FULL LIST OF THESE PRODUCTS SUBMITTED BY SEPARATE AIRGRAM.

4. GE MAINTAINS THAT IT HAS LOST CONSIDERABLE ORDERS IN THE MEDICAL LINE BECAUSE OF A PRICE DIFFERENTIAL OF 8 PERCENT WHICH THEY STATE IS PRIMARILY CAUSED BY THE TARIFF DIFFERENCE. FOR INSTANCE A 10 PERCENT DIFFERENCE IS HARD TO OVERCOME ON THE SALE OF BODY SCANNERS (\$650.000 EACH). THE FIRM STATES THAT IT COULD INCREASE SALES OF X-RAY EQUIPMENT FROM \$100,000-\$200,000 PER YEAR TO ABOUT \$2 MILLION. OTHER MAJOR INCREASES, ACCORDING TO GE, COULD BE IN SALES OF INSULATORY MATERIALS(4FOLD), CARBON BRUSHES (10-15 FOLD), SPECIAL LAMPS (4 FOLD), OPERATING TABLES (3 FOLD), AND LIGHTING FIXTURES (4 FOLD).

5. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS WASHINGTON AGENCIES STUDY STRUCTURE OF TARIFF PREFERENCES GIVEN TO EEC ON THESE PRODUCTS AND PROVED NECESSARY GUIDANCE TO EMBASSY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MFN, DIPLOMATIC NOTES, GENERALIZED PREFERENCES (TARIFFS), TARIFF CONCESSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LISBON06129
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770284-1127
Format: TEL
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770886/aaaacusu.tel
Line Count: 113
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: aecf5160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LISBON 76, 77 LISBON A-226
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1676616
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GSP: REVIEW OF PORTUGUESE REVERSE PREFERENCES TO EEC
TAGS: ETRD, PO
To: STATE COM
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/aecf5160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009